



Proposed safety improvements for SH58

The NZ Transport Agency has been investigating how to improve safety on State Highway 58. Over the past 10 years there have been over 200 crashes causing four deaths and 17 serious injuries on the section of SH58 between State Highway 2 and the Pauatahanui roundabout. SH58 is a challenging road to drive. The road is narrow with tight, difficult curves, and many access points and intersections.

How we'll improve safety

In 2014 we consulted with the community on a package of safety improvements. We received a lot of feedback on how we could improve our proposal. We have taken that feedback on board and significantly expanded the scope of the project so that we will achieve greater safety outcomes.

The proposed package of safety improvements includes:

- separating opposing traffic using a median safety barrier
- improving intersections
- two new roundabouts at Moonshine Road and Murphys/Flightys intersections
- widening shoulders and bridges to improve safety for motorists and cyclists
- straightening curves
- installing roadside safety barriers.

We are also recommending that we consult on reducing the speed limit to 80km/h.



What about making SH58 a four-lane road?

We have received some feedback from stakeholders suggesting that four-laning SH58 would provide a better long-term solution that would improve safety and increase capacity. Capacity is generally only an issue on SH58 when an incident happens. The SH58 improvements will mean fewer crashes and crash-related delays and should meet expected traffic volumes.

Four-laning would also require considerable further investigation, be far more costly and delay improvements.

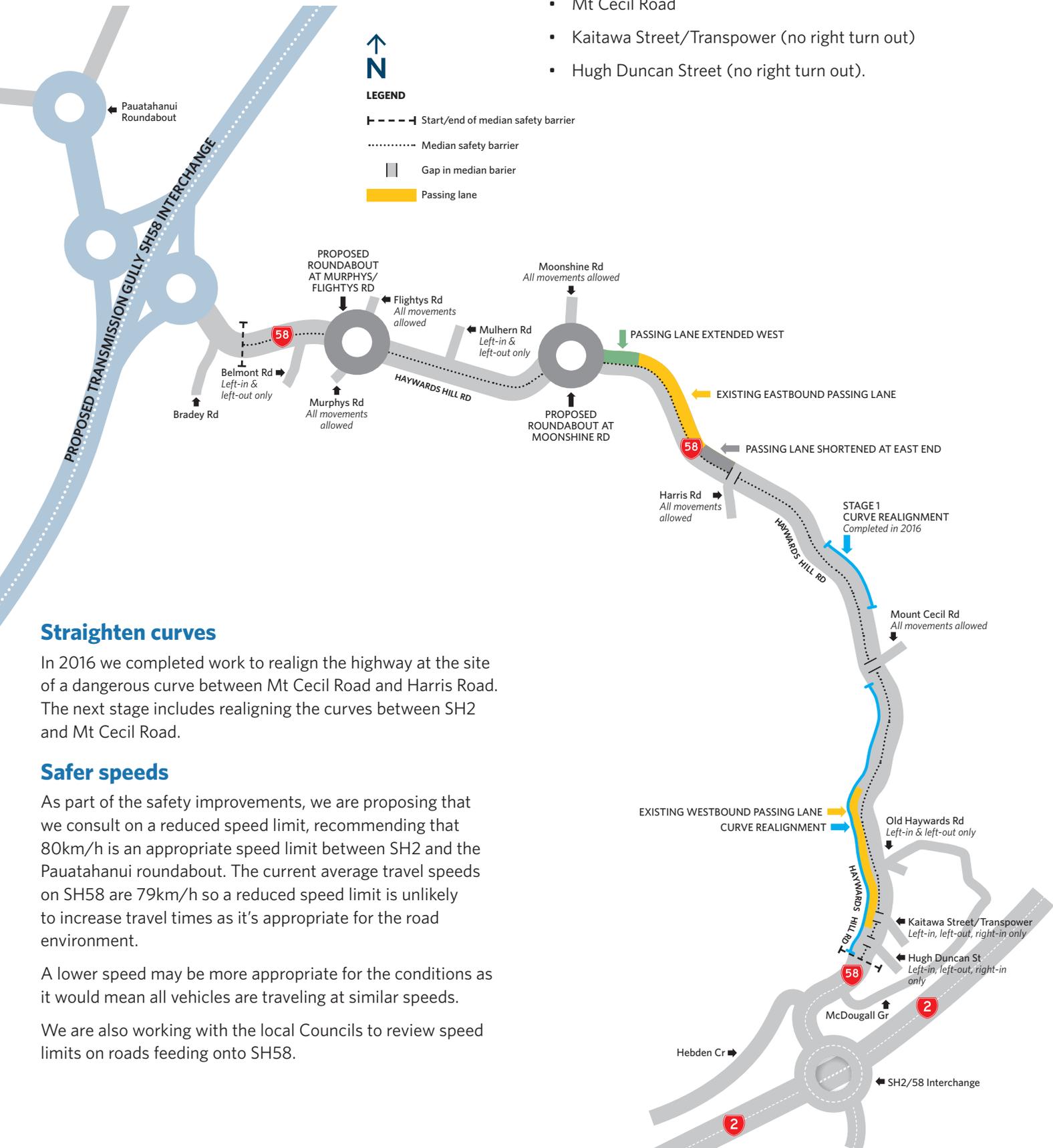
The SH58 safety package

Separate traffic

We propose to widen the highway, including four bridges, and install a median safety barrier between the opposing lanes of traffic from SH2 to Bradey Road. Median safety barriers are safest when they are continuous and not broken with gaps for multiple side access. We are only proposing gaps in the barrier at the roundabouts and locations where access demand is high and there are few safety risks.

We are proposing the only gaps in the safety barrier to be at the following locations:

- Flightys/Murphys roundabout
- Moonshine Road roundabout
- Harris Road
- Mt Cecil Road
- Kaitawa Street/Transpower (no right turn out)
- Hugh Duncan Street (no right turn out).



Straighten curves

In 2016 we completed work to realign the highway at the site of a dangerous curve between Mt Cecil Road and Harris Road. The next stage includes realigning the curves between SH2 and Mt Cecil Road.

Safer speeds

As part of the safety improvements, we are proposing that we consult on a reduced speed limit, recommending that 80km/h is an appropriate speed limit between SH2 and the Pauatahanui roundabout. The current average travel speeds on SH58 are 79km/h so a reduced speed limit is unlikely to increase travel times as it's appropriate for the road environment.

A lower speed may be more appropriate for the conditions as it would mean all vehicles are traveling at similar speeds.

We are also working with the local Councils to review speed limits on roads feeding onto SH58.

Impacts on travel time for local journeys

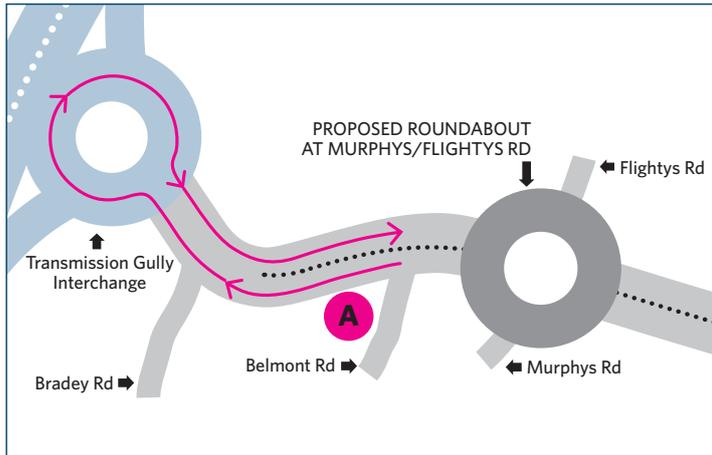
Installing a median safety barrier means that some right turns will be removed and some of the roads that connect to SH58 will become left-in/left-out only. While some locals will have very little change to their access, others will have a few minutes added to their journeys.

We know that any change of access can be inconvenient. We hope that you'll agree that a few minutes extra driving, riding or cycling is worth it to reduce the number of deaths and injuries that occur on SH58.

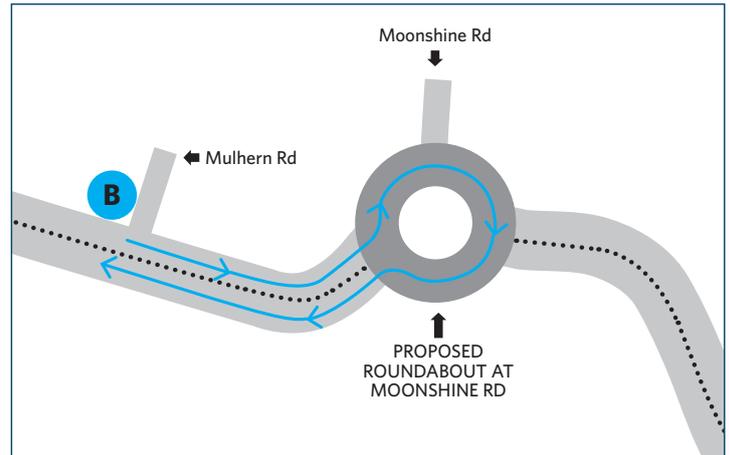
Some examples of the changes for local journeys and the approximate additional drive times are below.

Expected safety outcomes

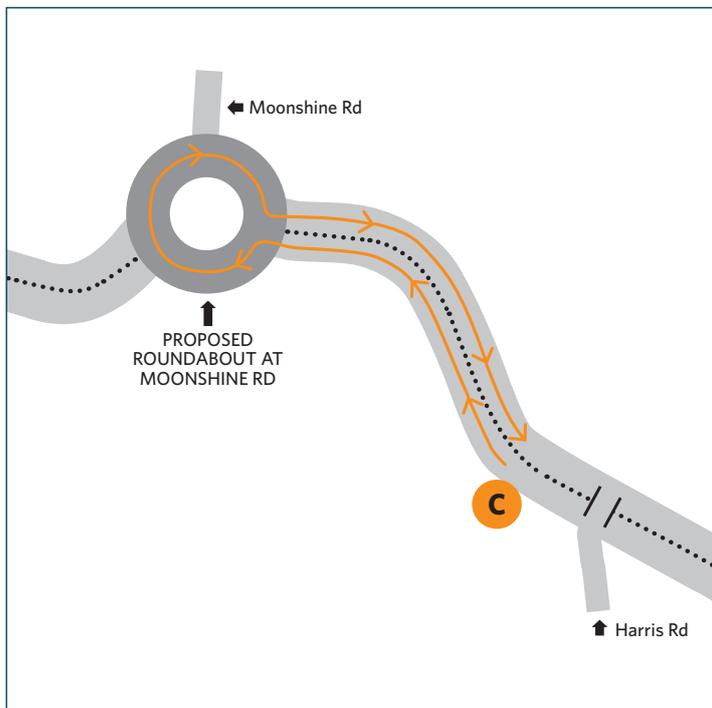
Once these improvements are in place we expect there to be 16-21 fewer deaths and serious injuries over 10 years. We also expect significantly fewer crash-related closures.



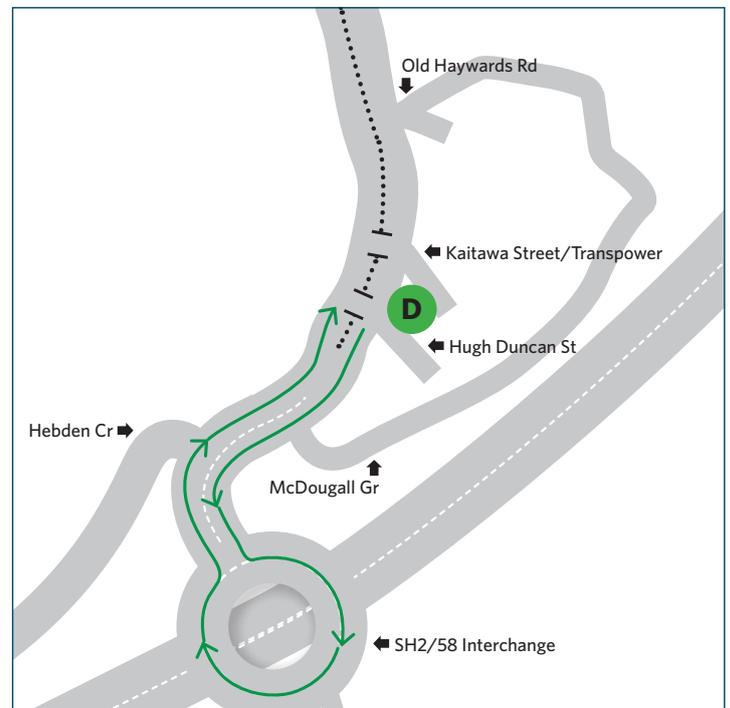
Heading towards the Hutt
A. extra 2-4mins



Heading towards Pauatahanui
B. extra 2-3mins



Heading towards the Hutt
C. extra 1-3mins



Heading towards Pauatahanui
D. extra 2-3mins

How the improvements will look



Example of SH58 **before** improvements



Example of SH58 **after** improvements

Timeline

STAGE	INDICATIVE DATE
Initial investigations	2014
First engagement on proposals	Late 2014
Incorporate feedback, realign curve between Mt Cecil Road and Harris Road, confirm plan	2014-2017
Engage on expanded scope	Mid-2017
Detailed design, lodge consent applications	2017
Construction (subject to funding approval)	2018 onwards

Have your say

Use our online feedback form to let us know what you think about the proposed safety improvements. You can find the form at www.nzta.govt.nz/sh58-improvements/feedback. You can provide feedback from 17 July to 21 August 2017.

What's next

We will consider your feedback, prepare the detailed design and submit our consent applications. We're going to work closely with property owners where property needs to be acquired and with those requiring modifications to their access. We aim to begin construction in late 2018.

Contact us



sh58safety@nzta.govt.nz



www.nzta.govt.nz/sh58-improvements



facebook.com/TransportAgency#sh58safety



twitter.com/nzta_news



youtube.com/user/NZTransportAgency

Write to us: State Highway 58 Project Team, PO Box 5084, Thorndon, Wellington 6145